

\*\*\*\*\**Please share these highlights with your staff, partners, and other colleagues*  
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## **Welcome to the USGS Cooperative Water Program Quarterly Highlights, January 2012 (v. 2)**

Highlights are from the USGS Cooperative Water Program (CWP), which monitors and assesses water in every State, protectorate, and territory of the U.S. in partnership with about 1,550 local, State, and Tribal agencies.

The CWP provides the foundation for USGS robust water monitoring networks (quantity and quality)—including, for example collection of data at more than 75 percent of the Nation's 7,800 streamgages, as well as supports interpretative studies—about 700 annually—that cover a wide range of issues that are important to the USGS water mission and that inform local, State, and Tribal water decisions.

Learn about and directly access water data on streams, groundwater and water quality, as well as highlights and selected products released over the last three months on water availability, ecosystem health, water quality and drinking water, water hazards, energy, and climate.

(<http://water.usgs.gov/coop> ).

### **Upcoming events this quarter:**

- **Stakeholder Roundtable in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 8-9, 2012**, organized by the Interstate Council on Water Policy with help from the Western States Water Council, and the Upper Colorado River Compact Commission. Please join the discussions on USGS data collection and interpretative studies in the Colorado River Basin States, including updates on the new USGS initiative centering on a National Water Census and a Census pilot study in the Colorado River Basin. Your stakeholder input will help USGS coordinate and refine activities to meet local, State, Tribal, and federal agency science needs in the Colorado River Basin. We welcome Anne Castle, DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as the opening plenary speaker and look forward to your participation. Read more at <http://water.usgs.gov/coop>; register online at <http://www.icwp.org/cms/> .
- **Cooperative Water Program Webinar on groundwater/surface water relations – “Managing Water Above and Below” – scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 from 1 -3 ET.** The Webinar will feature scientific findings and innovative modeling in Sonoma County, California and in the Yakima River Basin, Washington. Applications of the science for decision making will be highlighted by Cooperators in Sonoma County, the Washington Department of Ecology, and Yakama Nation.

**Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/507285990> as space may be limited.** After registering you will receive a confirmation email, information about joining the Webinar, and teleconferencing details.

## Science Highlights this past quarter:

### *Water Availability*

- ✓ **Kansas** reservoirs lose significant amounts of water storage capacity because of sedimentation ([Press release](#); [Newspaper article](#); [USGS Report](#)).
- ✓ River water use has reduced reliance of Albuquerque, **New Mexico** on groundwater and USGS data show the aquifer is recharging and water levels are rising in response. ([Article in Albuquerque Journal, December 25, 2011](#)).
- ✓ New findings on groundwater flow in the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer in South-Central **Oklahoma** help determine the volume of water that could be withdrawn while protecting springs and streams. ([USGS report](#))
- ✓ Quantity, quality, and timing of groundwater recharge from the Sand Hollow Reservoir to the underlying Navajo Sandstone aquifer in **Utah** evaluated since 2002 ([USGS report](#))

### *Water Quality and Drinking Water*

- ✓ Concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and some pesticides increase in urbanizing areas downstream of Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma** ([Press release](#); [USGS report](#); [Fact Sheet](#)).
- ✓ Findings on stormwater runoff from bridges on streams in **North Carolina** provide information needed to select most efficient best management practices at bridge and highway projects sites ([USGS report](#))

### *Ecosystems*

- ✓ Karst features and other factors affect hydrologic recovery of wetlands in the Northern Tampa Bay area, **Florida** ([USGS report](#)).
- ✓ New study in Barnegat Bay, **New Jersey** helps to improve quantitative understanding of critical physical, chemical, and biological conditions and processes that are relevant to the health of this important coastal resource ([Read more](#)).

### *Energy*

- ✓ Water from public and private wells in Lee and Chatham counties, **North Carolina** is being tested for baseline information because of potential for shale gas exploration in these areas ([Press release](#); [Study Area Map](#); [More detail](#))

### *Hazards*

- ✓ Stream bank erosion tracked in south-central **Alaska**, showing impacts to property, roadways, and public facilities for decades ([USGS report](#)).

### *Climate and Land-Use Change*

- ✓ Salinity and selenium associated with land-use changes in parts of western **Colorado** ([USGS report](#))
- ✓ Updates on [threatened and endangered streamgaging stations](#) across the Nation.

- ✓ Streamflow statistics and basin characteristics associated with USGS data-collection stations and for ungaged sites are now available for 26 States through [StreamStats](#).

We are hopeful that the data and science inform water issues you face each day and inspire new ways of thinking and water solutions.

For questions on specific studies or USGS programs in individual States, please contact the USGS Water Science Director in the respective State by clicking on the “map” in the right hand corner or toggle box in the left sidebar on <http://water.usgs.gov/coop> .

Comments and feedback on the Cooperative Water Program are welcome ([pahamilt@usgs.gov](mailto:pahamilt@usgs.gov)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

In appreciation for your support of USGS,

Sincerely,  
Pixie Hamilton  
National Coordinator, USGS Cooperative Water Program

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